

CHAMPIONS CLUB

Speaking of Champions ...

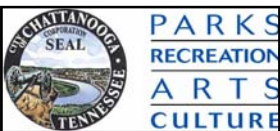
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Did You Know?

In 2004, the Champions Club will:

- Serve as host/co-host to 11 junior tournaments and seven collegiate/adult events
- Organize junior clinics and operate leagues for 3.0-4.5 singles, doubles and mixed doubles in Spring, Summer, Fall sessions



Inside this issue:

Champions Club: 2004 Calendar	2
Yerbey, Schlabach Junior 'Players'	3
Huskies' Vlaski Icy Hot's 'Hottest'	3
A Champions Tip From Craig Tiley	4
Fall Leagues: Who's No. 1?	4

\$\$\$: A Look At '03

Let's say good-bye to 2003.

Another year in the books, another year the Champions Club did its part to boost the economy for the City of Chattanooga.

According to Merrill Eckstein, the president for the Greater Chattanooga Sports & Events Committee, a visitor to the Scenic City will spend nearly \$100 on a daily basis.

An estimated 4,600 participants/visitors spent their bucks in Chattanooga because of tennis tournaments scattered throughout the calendar year at Champions.

The Champions Club's economic impact for the city is calculated at around \$2,160,00. Champions raised \$1,811,000 in 2002 and \$1,472,000 for 2001. The Champions Club opened its doors in December of 2000.

"We're pleased that the Champions Club continues to show an increase in economic events they've been able to stage," says Eckstein. "It's difficult for the Champions staff to be involved with so many events, but they do a

Champions Club's '03 Economic Impact

2003 Tournaments/ Events	Players/ Visitors (Est.)	Days In Town
• USA District Adult Championships	600	3
• USTA National Open 12s Championships	325	5
• Tenn. State Closed Jr. Championships	750	6
• Southern Junior USA Team	450	3
• STA Junior Davis Cup (14s, 16s, 18s)	300	3
• STA Junior Davis Cup (12s)	125	3
• UT-Chattanooga Fall Classic	350	3
• Icy Hot/ITA All-American	700	10
• USA Southern Sectional Mixed Doubles	1000	3

TOTALS (estimated) 4,600

X \$100 X
daily days

\$2,160,000



An autumn sunrise beautifies the scenery at the Champions Club (above), while Chattanooga's Gordon Whitehurst (right) celebrates victory during the Tennessee Senior Games



great job."

Champions' primary money-maker, of course, is the Icy Hot/ITA All-American Men's Championships, a congregation of the top

(Continued On Page 2)

A Champions Look At '03, Financially Speaking

(Continued From Page 1)

collegiate players in the country. The 10-day October event drew approximately 700 out-of-town guests to the Scenic City, earning the City of Chattanooga \$700,000. The six-day Tennessee State Closed Junior Championships (Aug. 2-7)

raised \$450,000 and the USA Southern Sectional Mixed Doubles Championships (1,000 players/visitors Oct. 17-19) earned the city \$300,000.

Again, the Champions Club has a full plate on its 2004 calendar, including the return of the Icy Hot/ITA, the Tennessee

State Closed Junior Championships, and the USA Southern Sectional Mixed Doubles.

Nonetheless, as important as its financial impact on Chattanooga, Champions refuses to overlook the hometown players.

The Champions High School Classic has become a popular and fast-growing event in its two years of existence, as well as the season-ending Hamilton County Middle School Tournament.

For 2004, there will be two Grand Prix Junior Novice events, which are designed for the young players with limited tournament experience, and the Tommy Bartlett Junior Summer League, a CTA program which drew 160 players for Wednesday afternoon matches during the summer. Also, the USTA National Open 14s will take center stage during the Fourth of July weekend.

The UT-Chattanooga men's and women's teams will play two matches at Champions during the spring, then return to the 20-court public facility in late September for their annual UTC/Baras Collegiate Fall Classic.

The Champions Club hosts the Tennessee Senior Games, promotes a weekly wheelchair program (weather permitting) and hosts successful leagues for NTRP players 3.0-4.5 in Spring, Summer and Fall sessions.

Another year, another challenge. Welcome, 2004!

Champions Club: 2004 Schedule

- February 27-29 – GPS Winter Open (Champions one of the sites)
- March 1 – Junior Spring Clinics begin
- March 5 – UTC men, women vs. Elon College, 1 p.m.
- March 5-7 – Baylor Spring Championships (Champions one of the sites)
- March 14 – UTC men, women vs. Wofford College, 11 a.m.
- March 29 – Champions Spring Leagues begin
- April 3-4 – USA League (local play)
- April 17-18 – USA League (local play)
- April 23-24 – Champions High School Tournament
- May 1-2 – USA League (local play)
- May 5-6 – Champions/Hamilton County Middle School Tournament
- May 5-7 – Tennessee Senior Games
- May 8-9 – USA League (local play)
- May 14-16 – Champions Jr. Novice Grand Prix I (B-G singles 10s-16s)
- May 15-16 – USA League (local play)
- May 22-23 – USA League (local play)
- May 31 – Champions Summer Leagues begin (tentative)
- June 15-17 – Junior Summer Camp I
- July 3-7 – USTA National Open 14s Boys & Girls Championships
- July 13-15 – Junior Summer Camp II
- July 31-August 4 – Tennessee Junior State Closed (B-G singles, doubles 10s-18s)
- August 13-15 – Southern Junior USA Team Championships
- August 27-29 – Champions Jr. Novice Grand Prix II (B-G singles 10s-16s)
- September 6 – Champions Fall Leagues begin (tentative)
- September 7 – Junior Fall Clinics begin
- September 10-12 – STA Junior Davis Cup (14s, 16s, 18s)
- September 17-19 – STA Junior Davis Cup (12s)
- September 23-25 – UTC/Steve Baras Collegiate Fall Classic
- October 1-10 – Icy Hot/ITA All-American Men's Championships
- October 15-17 – USA Southern Sectional Mixed Doubles Championships

YERBEY, SCHLABACH JR. PLAYERS OF THE MONTH

Logan Yerbey

Age/Birthday/Zodiac Sign: 11/
November 28/Sagittarius

School/Grade: Bright School/5th

Favorite Subject: Social studies

Favorite Restaurant/Food: Arby's/
Swiss Melt

Favorite Movie: Shrek

**Favorite Type of Music/Favorite
Music Artist:** Pop/Smash Mouth

Hobbies Outside Of Tennis: Baseball and basketball

Who Introduced You To Tennis? McCallie School tennis
coach Eric Voges

Began Playing Tennis: At age 8

Favorite Shot: Backhand

Favorite Pro Players: Andre Agassi (male), Jennifer Capriati
(female)

Tennis Racquet You Use: Babolat Drive Team

Best Tennis Memory/Highlight: "It was when I went back to
return a shot, but caught it (the ball lodging between his
elbow and side)."

Gary Yerbey on (son) Logan: "Logan and I have played ten-
nis together for three years. When we started I would let
him win one or two games to keep him interested. Now he
sometimes lets me win one."



Logan Yerbey

Lauren Schlabach

Age/Birthday/Zodiac Sign: 10/April
20/Taurus

School/Grade: Chattanooga Christian
School/5th

Favorite Subject: Reading

Favorite Restaurant/Food: Las Marga-
ritas/cheesecake

Favorite Movie: My Big Fat Greek
Wedding

**Favorite Type of Music/Favorite Musi-
cal Artist:** Contemporary Christian/Jump 5 & Stacie Orrico

Hobbies Outside Of Tennis: Basketball, scrap-booking, emailing

Who Introduced You To Tennis? My mom (Cindy)

Began Playing Tennis: Between six & seven years of age

Favorite Shot: Backhand

Favorite Pro Players: Andy Roddick (male) & Serena Williams
(female)

Tennis Racquet You Use: Dunlop 300 G

Best Tennis Memory/Highlight: "It was during the summer
(2003) when I won the City Closed 10s singles and doubles
with a broken arm."

Cindy Schlabach on (daughter) Lauren: "Lauren has a lot of
determination. We were so proud of her this summer when she
played in the City Closed with her arm in a cast and she never
complained."



Lauren Schlabach

Vlaski Crashes Dorsch's Icy Hot/ITA Party



Baylor University's Benedikt Dorsch (left) finishes runner-up to Washing-
ton's Alex Vlaski (right) for the sin-
gles title in the 2003 Icy Hot/ITA
All-American at Champions

It was taken for granted that the Champi-
ons Club-hosted 2003 Icy Hot/ITA All-
American Championships singles trophy
would be handed to Baylor University's
Benedikt Dorsch.

After all, Dorsch had become Chatta-
nooga's Choice following his streak of 11
matches (pre-qualifying, qualifying, main
draw) in the 2002 event at Champions.
And, for 2003, he was the top seed.

But University of Washington's Alex Vlaski,
the fourth seed and a junior from Belgrade,
Yugoslavia, spoiled the celebration, win-
ning the singles final over Dorsch, 6-1, 2-6,
6-1.

Vlaski became the first Husky to win a na-
tional title in 79 years. Dorsch was trying to

become the first No. 1 seed to win the
ITA All-American since Mississippi
State's Daniel Courcol in 1992.

The doubles crown went to Lester Cook
and Ante Matijevic of Texas A&M, the
second-seeded duo. The Aggies de-
feated No. 1 Richard and William Barker
of Rice University, 8-6. The Barker twins
had won 42 of their last 43 matches dat-
ing back to 2002.

The 10-day event began with a 256-draw
for pre-qualifying singles, narrowed to
draws of 64 for qualifying and 64 for the
Championship Flight.

The Champions Club will host the Icy
Hot/ITA for the third consecutive year on
Oct. 1-10, 2004.

Champions Club

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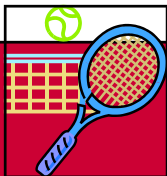
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Discover the
Champion in
yourself!

We're on the web:

www.chattanooga.gov/cpr/
(go to Champions Club)

A Champions Tip ...

From Head Coach Craig Tiley,

2003 NCAA Champion University of Illinois

Let The Dimensions Of The Tennis Court

Determine Your Stroke Pattern

There are basically four stroking patterns or swing shapes that you should be concerned about:

1. Table top or blocking motion for volleys
2. Half-moon shape for slice and approach shots
3. Circular motion for ground-strokes
4. Figure 8 motion for the serve and overhead



Stick to these stroking patterns and you will have a greater chance to execute successfully. Remember that in tennis the goal is to make fewer errors, not hit more winners. The first motion you will make on every stroke in tennis is "turn." Then simply maintain a simple stroking pattern with the above mentioned swing shapes and you will have to make fewer adjustments and thus fewer errors.

Neary, Brewer, Curry, Pope Among Fall Champions

Tyfani Neary's season certainly didn't end the way it started, although Jill Oaks was her Women's 3.0 singles division opponent in both matches.

When the Champions Club 2003 Fall Leagues began in September, Oaks stormed to a 6-1, 6-3 win over Neary en route to finishing as the top seed for the playoffs.

Neary, the second seed, bounced back in December to record a 6-1, 4-6, 1-0 (10-6) decision in the championship rematch.

Also in women's play, Danielle Brewer finished unbeaten to capture the 3.5 singles title, then teamed with Brittany Baker to claim the 7.0-7.5 doubles crown undefeated.

Shannon Minninger and Dana Barasha,

seeded second in Women's 6.0-6.5, rallied for a 4-6, 6-4, 1-0 (10-3) win over No. 1 Betty Sinor and Beverly Geismar.

Meanwhile, Bryce Curry had the tough task of beating his doubles partner — Bill Sheehan — for the Men's 3.5 singles title. Curry survived, 7-5, 6-3, to finish unbeaten.

Eric Pope topped John Hartman, 6-4, 6-4, for the 4.0 singles crown, and Chad Frank captured the 4.5 singles top prize. In doubles, Larry Wadley-Ben Fisher won the 6.0-6.5 crown and Scott Carroll-Russell Waters took the 7.0-7.5 title, avenging a loss to Clay Martin-Kurt Winterman.

Waters also teamed with Kyra Rhyne to take the 7.0-7.5 Mixed crown, while Michelle Waters (Russell's wife) and Bob Rahn rolled to the 6.0-6.5 Mixed champi-

onship.



Women's 3.0 champ Tyfani Neary